



# PARENT EDUCATION

A GUIDE TO PARENT EDUCATION IN THE FAMILY COURT

## FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

<http://courts.state.de.us/family>

### Who Must Attend?

- All parents in divorce cases with children under the age of 18
- All parents who are a party to a custody or visitation proceeding

### What is It?

Parent Education Programs are a 6-8 hour course to help parents cope with a divorce or separation. It is not a course on how to raise children.

### Questions?

Call Family Court  
New Castle County:  
(302) 255-0269  
Kent County: (302)  
672-1000  
Sussex County:  
(302) 855-7400

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### Which Class Should I Attend?

A list of approved education programs is attached. Parents are responsible for enrolling themselves in a program.

### Who Must Attend Domestic Violence Related Classes?

Both parents must go if:

- ⇒ One parent has a criminal conviction for a crime against the other parent
- ⇒ There is or ever was a Protection From Abuse Order between the parties

Parents may not attend the same domestic violence class.

### What happens if I do not attend a Parent Education Class?

The Court will not schedule your Custody or Visitation Petition for a hearing date until the Petitioner completes a Parent Education Class. If a Certificate of Completion is not received within 180 days of the date of the filing of the Petition, the Petition will be dismissed.

### **What Does It Cost?**

Each program sets its own fee, but the fee may not be more than \$100 per parent. The programs also offer financial aid.

### **When Do I Have to Take the Class?**

**The Court will not schedule a final custody or visitation hearing until the Petitioner has completed the class.** If neither parent attends, the Court may dismiss the case. If one parent does not attend, the Court may consider the parent's failure to attend the class in deciding the case.

### **How Will The Court Know I Have Completed the Program?**

The teachers of each course will give you a certificate when you complete the program. You must give the original certificate to the Court.

### **Can This Requirement Be Waived?**

This requirement may be waived for good reason. The hearing can be scheduled without completing the course if you can show the Court that there is a good reason why you should not have to take the course. If the Petitioner wants the Court to do so, he or she must file a Motion, asking the Court to waive the requirement. Motions are available online and in the Resource Centers.